

ORIGINAL

MESQUITE Independent School District
John Horn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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April 11, 2001

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Attn: Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 00-258

Dear Chairman Powell:

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the future of the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) and upon the significant and continually evolving role that service plays in the instructional program for our 32,000 students at 42 campuses.

As licensee for KHS-78, the Mesquite Independent School District has utilized instructional television as a means of providing curriculum related materials to serve the needs of our classroom teachers for more than thirty years. These programs address each subject area and grade level from kindergarten through 12th grade. ITV broadcasts more than 5,000 video programs specifically aligned to both TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) and TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge Skills) objectives during the school day.

In addition to our daily instructional programming, we are able to provide staff development opportunities for our 2000 plus professional educators, participation in live events of national relevance via satellite, and "for-credit" high school courses by ITV.

At the close of the school day, ITV programming is re-oriented to our more than 70,000 home viewers (via educational access cable channels) in eleven nearby communities. Our community based programming includes public information, parenting skills, art, history, travel, lifetime activities, continuing education, GED, foreign language and much more.

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April 11, 2001
page 2

Targeting the ITFS spectrum as a possible location for developing commercial 3G services is a point of very strong concern for several reasons. (1) As already noted in the FCC's Final Report of March 30, 2001, any attempt to relocate the ITFS service would represent a significant financial burden on the licensee – and since that licensee is most often a tax supported educational institution, ultimately the burden is placed upon the taxpayer. (2) For the same reason that the ITFS spectrum is targeted for 3G innovations (its adaptability to broadband networking, digitally compressed video, etc.) the existing educational licensees themselves have a compelling need for those same capabilities to serve instructional purposes.

I urge that the Commission not only search for an alternative location for the development of 3G services, but also encourage existing ITFS licensees to make use of their currently assigned spectrum for similar innovations applicable to educational use.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Horn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Horn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools